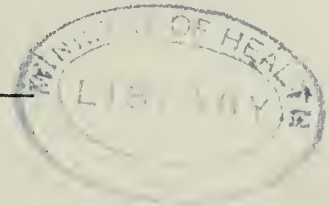


Builth Rural District Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1953.



Officials.

Medical Officer of Health...T.C.R. George, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....Mr. G. Llewellyn, M.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A.



Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1953.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Builth Rural District for the year 1953.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 1/54 (Wales).

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Statistical Summary for the year 1953.

Area.....125,944 acres.
Population (Census 1951).....3,503.
Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1953).....3,413.
Number of inhabited houses.....1,040.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Pop.
Legitimate	23	32	55	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
	23	32	55	16.1
Still Births	1	1	2	0.58
Deaths from all causes.	17	24	41	12.0
Maternal Deaths.....	Nil.			
Deaths under one year.....	3.			Rate per 1000 live births....54.5

Deaths from special causes;
Infectious disease.....Nil.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....Nil.
Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.
Cancer.....Ten.

Area. The Builth Rural District is a large area situated in the northern part of the County of Breconshire and consists of almost one fifth of the whole county.
The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents.
There are no large towns in the district.

Population.	Census 1931.....	4426.
	Census 1951.....	3503.

1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.
3901.	3869.	3753.	3661.	3576.	3467.	3412.	3391.	3395.	3439.	3413.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years.
The number of inhabited houses in the district was 1040 giving an average number of 3.2 persons per house.

Builth Rural District

<u>Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1940.....	24.....	28.....	52.....	13.3
1941.....	35.....	25.....	60.....	13.8
1942.....	42.....	24.....	66.....	16.0
1943.....	38.....	38.....	76.....	19.5
1944.....	40.....	27.....	67.....	17.6
1945.....	29.....	25.....	54.....	14.3
1946.....	28.....	25.....	53.....	14.5
1947.....	23.....	30.....	53.....	14.8
1948.....	39.....	22.....	61.....	17.6
1949.....	40.....	21.....	61.....	17.8
1950.....	31.....	36.....	67.....	19.7
1951.....	28.....	28.....	56.....	16.5
1952.....	39.....	22.....	61.....	17.7
1953.....	23.....	32.....	55.....	16.1
England and Wales, 1953.....				15.5

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales and also higher than the deathrate for the district.

Deaths. After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1940.....	29.....	19.....	48.....	12.5
1941.....	34.....	25.....	59.....	13.7
1942.....	22.....	28.....	50.....	12.2
1943.....	27.....	17.....	44.....	11.2
1944.....	19.....	14.....	33.....	8.6
1945.....	27.....	13.....	40.....	10.6
1946.....	19.....	21.....	40.....	10.8
1947.....	18.....	26.....	44.....	12.3
1948.....	22.....	23.....	45.....	12.9
1949.....	22.....	15.....	37.....	10.8
1950.....	25.....	21.....	46.....	13.5
1951.....	33.....	17.....	50.....	14.7
1952.....	16.....	24.....	40.....	11.6
1953.....	17.....	24.....	41.....	12.0
England and Wales, 1953.....				11.4

The deathrate for 1953 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales but much lower than the birthrate for the district.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1940.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	0.3
1941.....	2.....	3.....	5.....	1.1
1942.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.4
1943.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	0.7
1944.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1945.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.5
1946.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	0.81
1947.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1948.....	0.....	2.....	2.....	0.6
1949.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1950.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1951.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.58
1952.....	2.....	2.....	4.....	1.1
1953.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	0.58
England and Wales, 1953.....				0.35

The still birthrate was therefore higher than the average of England and Wales.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1940.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	52.
1941.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	18.
1942.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	30.
1943.....	2.....	3.....	5.....	69.
1944.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	15.
1945.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	15.
1946.....	3.....	2.....	5.....	94.
1947.....	0.....	2.....	2.....	37.
1948.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1949.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	16.
1950.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	44.7
1951.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	35.
1952.....	0.....	1.....	1.....	16.4
1953.....	1.....	2.....	3.....	54.5
England and Wales, 1953.....				26.8

The infantile mortality rate for 1953 was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.
These infantile deaths all occurred in children of under 4 weeks old.

Analysis of causes of Deaths. Males....17. Females...24.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1.....	3.
Malignant neoplasm, lung.....	1.....	0.
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0.....	1.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	2.....	2.
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	1.....	5.
Coronary disease.....	1.....	2.
Other heart disease.....	7.....	6.
Other circulatory disease.....	0.....	1.
Other causes.....	4.....	4.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to Builth Rural residents during 1953 amounted to nil.

Maternal Mortality. There was no death in the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in your officers during the year, Mr.G.Llewellyn remaining as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth, Hereford and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for the County at Shrewsbury whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Builth.

Builth Rural District

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's Ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations were whole time employees of the County Council.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council, are held regularly at Park House, Park Road, Builth and the War Memorial Institute, Llanwrtyd. Ante natal clinics are also held in Builth and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects are also available.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Builth Hospital.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Maternity and Child Welfare.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, treatment for dental, eye and orthopaedic defects and also expectant mothers. Provision is also made for the supply of free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is the responsibility of the County Council.

Section 4. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. The water supplies to the various parts of the district are derived mainly from springs. In one case the source is a shallow well. Owing to the prolonged wet weather the supply of water has been satisfactory at the source but there were occasional shortages due to mechanical failure.

The Council supplies were cleaned out and other steps taken to prevent contamination. The private supplies were subjected either to similar treatment or alternative supplies found.

Number of visits to water supplies.....102.
There are no filtration or chlorination works in the district.

Gwenddwr.

Number of houses supplied direct to the house.....4.
Population thus supplied.....12.
There is one school and one school house supplied direct to the premises..
Number of houses supplied by standpipe.....6.
Population thus supplied.....19.

Oaklands.

Number of houses supplied direct.....	81.
Population thus supplied.....	260.
Number supplied by standpipe.....	0.
Number of samples.....	7.
Two farms are also connected to this supply.	

Erwood.

Number of houses supplied direct to the house.....	14.
Population thus supplied.....	39.
No. of houses supplied by standpipes.....	7.
Population thus supplied.....	20.
Number of samples taken.....	2.
Number of samples satisfactory.....	2.

Nantyrarian.

Number of houses supplied direct to the house.....	0.
Number of houses supplied by standpipe.....	10.
Population thus supplied.....	20.
Number of samples taken.....	3.
Number of samples satisfactory.....	1.

Llangammarch Wells.

Number of houses supplied direct to the house.....	28.
Population thus supplied.....	81.
Number of houses supplied by standpipe.....	37.
Population thus supplied.....	100.
Number of samples taken.....	5.
Number of samples satisfactory.....	2.

Garth.

Number of houses supplied direct to the house.....	15.
Population thus supplied.....	48.
Number of houses supplied by standpipe.....	9.
Population thus supplied.....	26.
Number of samples taken.....	4.
Number of samples satisfactory.....	4.

Cefngorwydd.

Number of houses supplied direct to the house.....	6.
Population thus supplied.....	17.
Number of houses supplied by standpipe.....	10.
Population thus supplied.....	26.
Number of samples taken.....	2.
Number of samples satisfactory.....	2.

Cilnery.

Number of houses supplied direct to the house.....	22.
Population thus supplied.....	63.
Number of houses supplied by standpipe.....	5.
Population thus supplied.....	13.
In addition one school and one school house are supplied direct.	
Number of samples taken.....	10.
Number of samples satisfactory.....	2.

Llanwrthwl.

Number of houses supplied direct to the house.....	14.
Population thus supplied.....	42.
Number of houses supplied by standpipe.....	0.
Number of samples taken.....	1.
Number of samples satisfactory.....	1.

Work on water supplies during the year.

1. Gwenddwr. As a result of bad samples and diminution of available water, the drive-water dam was improved, collecting channels in the spring area were cleaned out and new porous pipes were laid and surrounded with broken stone. The Council also decided to enclose more land around the springs, which was commenced during the year.
2. Cilmery. Arrangements were made for taking over the Cilmery Park supply for the village. A new roof was provided for the village storage tanks and the tanks at source were cleaned and chlorinated.
3. Llangammarch Wells. The extension previously considered to provide water along the Cefngorwydd road was abandoned during the year but an alternative supply was introduced from a private supply at Nantyrnonen by means of standpipes to supply these properties. Three further standpipes were provided at Llangammarch.
4. Erwood. During the year the catchment area was cleaned and collecting pipes renewed.
5. Garth. A new pump was provided during the year.

Regional Scheme. Further consideration was given to this scheme and Financial Advisers and Parliamentary Agents were engaged. A financial report was expected soon after the end of the year.

The above are all Council's supplies. The remainder of the population have private supplies.

The Oaklands part of the parish of Llandewicwm is supplied from the Builth Urban Supply.

In addition to the above samples 30 others were taken from private supplies.

Drainage and Sewerage. There is no sewerage scheme in any part of the district except for the Oaklands area of Llandewicwm which is connected to the Builth Urban sewer and for the village of Llanwrthwl which was completed during the year.

Schemes for sewage disposal for the villages of Llangammarch, Erwood and Cilmery are in the hands of the Ministry.

Number of drainage inspections by sanitary inspector.....49.

Adequate methods of sewage disposal are connected very closely with an increased supply of water and it is to be hoped that both these matters will receive attention in the near future.

Public Cleansing. The scheme inaugurated in the previous year, provides for the collection of refuse at fortnightly intervals, from properties along the roads throughout the greater part of the district. The scheme is carried out by a contractor and tips are provided at Hay Road, (Builth Wells), and at Beulah. There was a very satisfactory response to the scheme and very great quantities of accumulated refuse have been disposed of. Consideration was given to the extension of the scheme to take in the remaining parts of the district, and was extended to cover Abergwessin, Llandulas and the remainder of Llandewicwm.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. Llewellyn. The following details give information relating to the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	25.
Number of complaints investigated.....	25.
Number of promises revisited.....	25.
Number of notices served.....	4.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature that they require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Common Lodging Houses. There is no common lodging house in the district.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector.....	10.
Number of notices served.....	0.

Shops Acts.

Number of inspections made.....	0.
Number of notices served.....	0.

Factories.

Number of factories in the district.....	7.
Number of visits made.....	10.
Number of notices served.....	1.
Number of defects found.....	1.
Number of defects remedied.....	1.

Camping Sites. There is no recognised camping site in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

No premises were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

Rodent Control. Work of Rodent Control was continued wherever found necessary and many routine inspections made. As in the previous year, it was found that the troublesome colonies of rats were centred on such places as the banks of rivers and streams, and intensive control of these showed a very satisfactory lessening of the trouble experienced through the visits of rats to adjoining premises.

During the year, use was made of the new poison "Warfarin", and this was found to be extremely satisfactory.

Number of premises inspected.....	784.
Number found infested.....	163.
Number of premises treated.....	163.
Number of repeat visits to premises.....	969.
Number of dead rats picked up.....	989.
Regular visits and treatments were made to the refuse tips.	
The Rodent Officer was off duty for 2 months owing to illness.	

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

Section 5. Housing.

During the year no further houses were built by the Council. Consideration was given to the erection of houses in the parishes of Llanganton, Penbualt, Crickadern, Rhosferig, Treflis, Llanynis, Maesmynis, Gwenddwr and Abergwessin.

Number of houses built by private enterprise.....3.
 Number of houses built by Council since war.....34.
 Number of houses built by private enterprise since war.....6.
 Number of applications for improvement grant received.....4.
 Number of applications for improvement grant approved.....1.

Number of house to house inspections made.....20.
 Number of notices served.....0.

There was difficulty experienced in getting necessary repairs done to houses owing to the discrepancy between cost of repairs and value of house. It appears that the Rent Restriction Acts need revision. and it appears that something will be done about this in the near future.

Section 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.

Record of Inspections and Milk Testing.

Number of inspections of vehicles.....22.

Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, the Council is left with the registration and supervision of distributors.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in your area and all meat is supplied to the district from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Point in Colwyn Rural District.

Ice Cream Premises. There is one retailer of ice cream in the district.

Food Premises. The following were food premises in the area:-

4 public houses serving food, 4 public houses not serving food, 1 Market Hall, 16 grocers one of which also supplies ice cream, 1 cafe and 1 dairy. There is another dairy which is shared by a producer.

There were no educational activities in the district during the year.

Any food condemned was burnt in the gas works.

Other visits of inspection by Sanitary Inspector not specified...44.

Section 7. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following number of cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year.

Measles.....11 cases.

Diphtheria.....1 case.

Whooping Cough.....3 cases.

The case of diphtheria was removed to hospital, the remaining cases being isolated at home. None of the cases proved fatal.

Under the Health Act, all fees for the notification of infectious disease are now refunded by the County Council, provided that copies of notifications are received by the County Council.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.